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Unit 3778
4-1-02
#3/IDS
L. Nelson

Group Art Unit 3728

Examiner Not Yet Known

For : SHOE

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Sir:

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 CFR 1.56 and in accordance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, the following information is brought to the attention of the Examiner for his or her consideration during the examination of the instant application.

The following documents were cited in a search report in the French priority application upon which the instant application is based. A copy of the search report and a copy of an annex thereto, indicating "family member" documents, are attached.

For compliance with the "concise explanation" requirement set forth in 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3), consistent with U.S. Patent and Trademark Office policy, Applicants describe below any comments relating to pertinent portions of the respective documents, where such comments appear in the search report.

U.S. Patent No. 5,253,434 (CURLEY, Jr.), issued on October 19, 1993, is cited as being a document that is particularly pertinent (i.e., a category "X" document) to the invention recited in claim 1 of Applicants' aforementioned priority application. The following portions of US '434 are cited as being pertinent: column 2, lines 37-43; column 2, lines 47-57; column 4, lines 4-6; column 5, lines 28-44; and the figures.

U.S. Patent No. 4,899,411 (JOHNSON et al.), issued on February 13, 1990, is cited as being a document that is particularly pertinent (i.e., a category "X" document) to the invention recited in claim 1 of Applicants' aforementioned priority application. The following portions of US '411 are cited as being pertinent: column 2, lines 49-54; claims 1, 3, 4; and the figures.

French Patent No. 598,761 (DESPREZ), published on December 24, 1925, is cited as being a document that is pertinent to the general state of the art (i.e., a category "A" document) with regard to the invention recited in claim 1 of Applicants' aforementioned priority application. Page 2, lines 14-26, and the figures of FR '761 are cited as being pertinent.

French Patent No. 726,292 (LENTZ), published on May 26, 1932, is cited as being a document that is pertinent to the general state of the art (i.e., a category "A" document) with regard to the invention recited in claim 1 of Applicants' aforementioned priority application. The entirety of FR '292 is cited as being pertinent.


In accordance with 37 CFR 1.98 and MPEP 609, a copy of each of the above-mentioned documents is enclosed herewith. Further, each is listed on the attached PTO-1449 form to permit the Examiner to indicate his or her consideration thereof.

The Examiner is requested to consider the documents cited above and to confirm such consideration by appropriately initialling the listings on the PTO-1449 form and returning a copy of the initialled form to Applicants.

In addition to the documents cited above, Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to the commonly owned U.S. Patent Application No. 10/023,987 (DELGORGUE), filed on December 21, 2001, a copy of which is enclosed.

Any comments or questions concerning this application can be directed to the undersigned at the telephone or fax number given below.

Respectfully submitted,
Gérald DELGORGUE et al.


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March 12, 2002
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